

MEMORANDUM

TO: Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMMD)

DATE: November 3, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for November 1, 2016 to November 7, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 1, 2016 to November 7, 2016. On October 31, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.49 feet NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band and within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.25 feet.

District rainfall for October was below average. District rainfall is forecast to be below-average for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for November indicates a slightly increased likelihood (~38%) of below-normal rainfall for south Florida. For the three-month window November to January, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall remains the same for areas south of Lake Okeechobee; the lake and areas north of the lake have a higher likelihood (~45%) for below normal rainfall. For the same areas and for the window December-February, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall increases by 5%. The CPC outlook for the remainder of the 2017 dry season months is for moderate chances of below-normal rainfall to equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades Impacts. Otherwise no releases to the WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from October 24, 2016 to October 30, 2016, a total of 24,400 acre-feet were delivered south from Lake Okeechobee through the three major EAA canals. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: 1,000 acre-feet to STA-1E, 400 acre-feet to STA-1W, 600 acre-feet to STA-2 and no inflow to STA-3/4. Inflow into the A-1 FEB from the lake was 1,250 acre-feet as flow-through to STA-2 to support a District Science Plan flow test. About 9,000 acre-feet released from the lake through the West Palm Beach canal were used to help fill the L-8 FEB. The remainder of the releases from the lake south were for water supply needs in the EAA. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 2,800 acre-feet.

The WCA-1 marsh average stage and the canal stage are in the water supply zone. The USACE continues to request the SFWMMD send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs are available, and if lake turbidity around structure S-352 is not high. With concurrence from USACE, the District will continue to send releases from the lake to the A-1 FEB and then to STA-2 to support the District Science Plan flow test in Cell 3. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMMD to increase releases to WCA-2A beyond what is required for the test nor to send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-3A. Discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A; using S-7 and G-335/G-436. Low volume releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 continue.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, less than one foot from the Intermediate Sub-band, with tributary hydrologic conditions within the Normal classification, and with the lake net inflow seasonal outlook in the dry category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests Base Flow releases: "S-79 up to 400 and S-80 up to 250 cfs". The District recommends that the USACE follows the release reduction plan that implemented on October 28, 2016 to be able achieve the release levels currently specified by LORS 2008 in the term of a couple of weeks.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary decreased almost to the line dividing the fair and the poor ranges for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinity remained in the good range for oysters at the Sanibel Causeway and the Shell Point locations. Salinity conditions at the Cape Coral Bridge transitioned for the poor range to the fair.